

SPARK

Newsletter of the City of San Antonio **Office of Cultural Affairs**

OCA's Mission

To provide leadership, resources and support for arts and cultural organizations and individual artists, enhancing the quality of life for San Antonio citizens and visitors.

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Arts Project Grants for 2005–2006 Show Diversity

The following project grants will receive funding for their activities in the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2005 and ending September 30, 2006. Total funding is \$77,205 from Community and Visitors Facilities (CVF) funds and \$34,127 in State funds from the Texas Commission on the Arts. Authorization by City Council came at their meeting on January 19, 2006.

04ARTS Foundation—\$2,645: Spring Family Day at Blue Star Contemporary Arts Center for inner-city children and their families using the Moving Waters curricula developed by 04ARTS with local artists. TCA matched the grant with \$2,355.

American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions—\$5,000: To develop a nationally recognized and self-sustaining Indian Market that promotes local Native American artists and is a major tourist attraction that brings attention to the wealth of culture in South San Antonio and the five exceptional Missions in this area.

National Association of Latino Independent Producers – San Antonio Chapter \$5,000: A yearlong series of screenings and workshops to foster independent film in San Antonio.

International Accordion Festival—\$17,788: To support artists' fees, festival and correlative program production costs and publicity and promotion expenses.

Sociedad Herencia Puertorriqueña—\$8,866: To bring directly from Puerto Rico, “La Tuna de Cayey” to the McAllister Fine Arts Center for the annual commemoration of the discovery of Puerto Rico.

SAC Folk Dance Festival—\$5,000: To support the San Antonio College Folk Dance Festival which will observe its 48th anniversary.

Conjunto Heritage Taller—\$7,906: To provide instruction on the accordion and bajo sexto to students interested in traditional Conjunto Music.

San Antonio Choral Society—\$5,000: A series of events in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of our first concert.

Ballet San Antonio—\$5,000: Partial support for “Learning that Moves You,” Ballet San Antonio’s expansive, multi-faceted educational initiative for 2005-2006.



Volunteers Sought for Review Panels

OCA depends on Review Panels to help evaluate the requests for funding for operational, project and neighborhood arts programs from local arts and cultural organizations. These panelists must represent a cross section of arts disciplines as well as the ethnic diversity of San Antonio. The panels will also include Cultural Arts Board members and arts professionals from other cities. The panels will evaluate information from the proposals and site visits and score the proposals according to specified criteria:

Individuals who may be interested in nominating themselves or another person can find an application form on OCA's website at www.sanantonio.gov/art.

Mayor's Committee Begins Implementation of Cultural Plan

The Cultural Collaborative Implementation Committee, appointed by Mayor Phil Hardberger, met formally for the first time Tuesday, November 29, 2005. The 17 member committee will oversee implementation of the cultural plan's 38 strategies. The strategies were identified during an 18-month planning process entitled, "The Cultural Collaborative: A Plan for San Antonio's Creative Economy" (TCC). Electing leadership was the first order of business conducted by the committee. Tom Frost III was elected chair, and Clarence R. "Reggie" Williams, Colonel, USAF (retired) was elected vice-chair.



Other business included presentation of an advertising campaign designed to promote awareness of the implementation process. Al Aguilar, of Creative Civilization, shared sample print advertisements using the SA...SA brand. The campaign tagline, "What Makes San Antonio...San Antonio," together with photojournalistic imagery, encourages readers to support the local creative community and cultural industry. Additionally, the committee discussed strategies to implement during the first year, ranging from arts education to cultural tourism initiatives.

A significant decision by the committee involved initiating an update of the 1996 study surveying the use of existing cultural facilities owned by the City of San Antonio. The updated research and resulting report will explore the possibility of a state-of-the-art performing arts center, whether new or renovation of an existing structure.

The committee represents a wide range of professional expertise and disciplines. In addition to Frost and Williams, Thomas F. Cannon, Ph. D., Ramiro A. Cavazos, Michael De La Garza, Thomas V. DeBrooke, Mary Flanagan, Malena Gonzalez-Cid, James C. Hu, David E. Marquez, Dennis Martinez, Aaronetta Pierce, Mimi Quintanilla, Elizabeth C. Ramirez, Ph. D., Harriett D. Romo, Ph. D., Penelope Speier, and Kausi Subramaniam will serve a minimum two-year term as committee members.

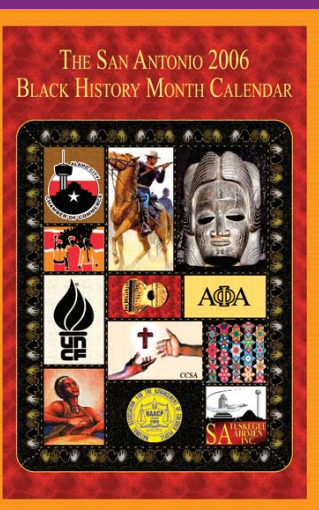
The City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs is providing staff support to the Implementation Committee. Information about TCC is available online at www.sanantonio.gov/sasa.

Black History Month 2006

As it does every year in February, San Antonio will celebrate the rich cultural heritage of her citizens of African descent through exhibits, lectures, performances and other kinds of social gatherings. A comprehensive guide to all these events is at www.sablackhistory.com. The Carver Community Cultural Center, Gemini Ink and Price Consulting are the partners pulling together the information for the website. Additional sponsors include: The San Antonio Express News, HEB, UTSA, City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs, Jammin' 94.1, Blue Star Art Space and Texas Public Radio.

The national theme for this year is "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social, and Civic Institutions". Last year was the inaugural effort for this calendar and the San Antonio Salutes Black History spots on Texas Public Radio. Throughout the month of February, each day will feature a facet of Black History related to the theme. These spots will be recorded by prominent San Antonians most of whom will be recognized by the listener.

The calendar will be published in the *San Antonio Express-News* on Sunday, January 29th and February 5th and *African American Reflections* on February 1st. Copies will also be available on site at the different venues presenting Black History Month activities. A complete listing of events can be found at www.sablackhistory.com.



Felix Padrón & Councilwoman Sheila D. McNeil unveil Black History Month calendar.

Arts Funding for 2005-06 Nears \$3.2 Million

In two separate meetings on November 3, 2005 and January 19, 2006, City Council approved the allocation of \$3,148,586 in Community and Visitors Facilities (CVF) funds and subgranting of \$34,127 in State funds from the Texas Commission on the Arts to local arts and cultural organizations for operational and project funding for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2005 and ending September 30, 2006. These actions resulted in an increase of \$819,429 over last fiscal year's allocations.

Grants Process for 06–07 Being Revised

FY 2006-2007 will be the first year of the next 2 year funding cycle and will involve changes to the funding process. The Cultural Arts Board and OCA staff have been working to make adjustments in areas such as, matching funds requirements, request and awards limits and composition of review committees.

Details of the proposed changes can be accessed on OCA's website at www.sanantonio.gov/art/website.

The revised process and guidelines will go to City Council for approval in February and subsequently be published on OCA's website for use by agencies seeking funding for the next two year cycle.

Operational Funding Grants	Total	Operational Funding Grants	Total
Alamo City Men's Chorale	\$28,333	San Antonio Museum of Art	222,232
Arts San Antonio	89,139	San Pedro Playhouse	36,724
Blue Star Art Center	149,548	Say SI	91,223
Centro Alameda	54,260	Southwest School of Art and Craft	286,828
Centro Cultural Aztlan	117,473	StoneMetal Press	22,558
Children's Chorus	22,416	URBAN-15 Group	69,343
Children's Fine Art Series	19,996	Witte Museum	389,431
Esperanza Peace and Justice Ctr.	129,099	Youth Orchestra of San Antonio	44,260
Gemini Ink	97,370	Subtotal Operational Funding	\$2,720,869
Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center	450,725	Marketing	80,233
Jump-Start Performance Co.	112,600	Arts in the Community	150,000
Lyric Opera	30,749	Shakespeare in the Park	22,000
Magik Theatre	79,441	CVF Project Funding	77,205
Network for Young Artists	27,250	Incubator Program	20,000
Opera Guild of San Antonio	13,773	Hosting/Grant Obligations	50,000
San Anto Cultural Arts	70,038	New Collaborative Projects	28,279
San Antonio Children's Museum	43,605	Total 2005-2006 CVF Funds	\$3,148,586
San Antonio Dance Umbrella	22,455	TCA Project Support	34,127
GRAND TOTAL ARTS FUNDING 2005–2006: \$3,182,713			

Arts Project Grants for 2005–2006 Show Diversity

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Third Coast Rhythm Project—\$5,000: Partial support for Third Coast Rhythm Project's annual summer festival.

San Antonio Youth Centers, Inc.—\$10,000: Save the Music Program to provide group music instruction for approximately 600 youth annually and private instruction for approximately 125 youth annually.

TCA Funds \$34,127

Wings Press—\$8,866: Publish three important works by San Antonio writers.

Girl Scouts of the San Antonio Area, Inc.—\$7,906: Kaleidoscope of the Arts Project, a multi-faceted community arts program for girls and their families.

04ARTS Foundation—\$2,355

Healing Arts (sponsored by Boys & Girls Clubs)—\$10,000: Collaboration with Blue Star to develop "Take One Picture Too" a project for abused children.

Natyanjali Center for Performing Arts—\$5,000: To present The Natyanjali Dance Festival 2006: Dance Expressions.

Cultural Arts Board Members

(as of February 2006)

Mayor's Appointee	Ana Maria Martinez
District 1	Bettie Ward
District 2	Antoinette V. Franklin
District 3	Theresa A. Ybañez
District 4	Rudy Martinez
District 5	VACANT
District 6	Ruby Perez (Chair)
District 7	Patricia Pratchett
District 8	Christia Mathre-Adams
District 9	Nelson H. Balido
District 10	Jan Van Den Hende

Board Welcomes New Appointees

The Cultural Arts Board (CAB) is an 11 member advisory board to the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA). Each district Councilperson appoints one CAB member from his/her district and the mayor appoints one from anywhere in the City. Each Board member serves a two year term and may be reappointed for a second term at the pleasure of the Councilperson. In addition to representing one of the 10 City Council districts, each CAB appointee must represent one of the following categories: institution; visual artist; performing artist/music, theatre, dance; arts education; cultural artist; business; or arts patron. New CAB members just coming on to the Board are: Theresa A. Ybañez, District 3; Rudy Martinez, District 4; Christia Mathre-Adams, District 8; Nelson H. Balido, District 9; and Jan Van Den Hende, District 10. One vacant position remains open. A representative from District 5 needs to be appointed before the Board will be at full strength. Anyone who lives in this district or knows of someone who lives there and meets the criteria and who would be willing to serve should contact Ernesto Rubio at (210) 207-6963 or ernestor@sanantonio.gov for information on how to proceed.

The Grants Man Returns

He's baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaack!

Both the OCA staff and arts and cultural agencies across the city breathed a collective sigh of relief as Ernesto Rubio, Jr. safely returned from 22 months of active duty as a called-up Army Reservist in the Iraq war. At OCA, Ernest is Executive Assistant to Felix Padrón in charge of managing the grants funding process. He has worked in the Office of Cultural Affairs for 19 of his 36 years with the City of San Antonio. Funded agencies relate well to his quiet, steady demeanor and depend on him to help them make sense out of all the requirements that come along with their City grants.

Though it may seem so, Ernest hasn't always worked in arts and cultural programming. He began working for the City in June of 1970 in departments such as Budget, Finance and Public Works. It wasn't until 1986 that he signed on in Parks and Recreation to head up the Cultural Arts Program. Three years later, when Cultural Affairs was elevated to departmental status and Eduardo Díaz was hired to be the Director, Ernest shifted his attention to the grants funding program and has been focused there ever since.

The same qualities that make Ernesto a good grants manager also serve him well in his military career in the Army Reserves where he holds the rank of First Sergeant. After being mobilized four times and deployed twice, he says he will probably hang up his stripes for good at the next opportunity. His first deployment in 1990 was to Operation Desert Storm where he did water purification and storage for 10 months.

His second deployment had two stages. He was called up in January of 2004 to serve in a joint task force civil support charged with responding within 48 hours to any terrorist attack, especially chemical or biological within the continental United States. After 10 months of this duty he was sent to Iraq where he was part of Operation Iraqi Freedom for 12 more months. This time he was stationed in five different combat outposts in support of Army/Marine operations.

Besides missing his family and friends, Ernest said the hardest part of being stationed in Iraq was the weather which ranged from freezing rains in the winter to incredible heat in the summer. The most memorable incidents he experienced were three sand storms. "It wasn't just sand blowing," he said. "It was a 100 ft tall wave of sand coming at you and sweeping away anything that wasn't tied down." Two of them were spectacular sights in the daytime and one was at night where you couldn't see anything.

Ernest, welcome back to the art storms.

